

Amendments to the Claim:

We claim

1. (Original): A method for preparing a flavored beverage, comprising the following steps:
 - a) adding trehalose to a normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; and wherein the trehalose and the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein form a mixture;
 - b) removing water from the mixture, wherein the mixture is substantially dehydrated;
 - c) adding the mixture to a flavored beverage; wherein the mixture has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
2. (Original): A method for preparing a flavored beverage, comprising the following steps:
 - a) adding trehalose to whey protein; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the whey protein; and wherein the trehalose and the whey protein form a mixture;
 - b) removing water from the mixture, wherein the mixture is substantially dehydrated;
 - c) adding the mixture to a flavored beverage; wherein the mixture has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
3. (Original): The method described in claim 1, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is selected from the group consisting of soy protein and casein protein.
4. (Original): The method described in claim 1, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is in a form selected from the group consisting of isolate, condensate, and hydrolyzate.
5. (Currently Amended): The method described in claim 1, ~~claim 2, or claim 3,~~ wherein the beverage is selected from the group consisting of sport beverages, meal replacement beverages, nutritional supplement beverages, fruit juices, and soda pop.
6. (Original): A method for preparing an additive for a beverage, comprising the following steps:

- a) adding trehalose to a normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; and wherein the trehalose and the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein form a mixture;
 - b) removing water from the mixture; wherein the mixture is substantially dehydrated;
 - c) formulating the substantially dehydrated mixture into at least part of the additive; wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
7. (Original): A method for preparing and additive for a beverage, comprising the following steps:
- a) adding trehalose to whey protein; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the whey protein; and wherein the trehalose and the whey protein form a mixture;
 - b) removing water from the mixture; wherein the mixture is substantially dehydrated;
 - c) formulating the substantially dehydrated mixture into at least part of the additive; wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
8. (Original): The method described in claim 6, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is selected from the group consisting of soy protein and casein protein.
9. (Original): The method described in claim 6, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is in a form selected from the group consisting of isolate, condensate, and hydrolyzate.
10. (Currently Amended): The method described in claim 6, ~~claim 7, or claim 8,~~ wherein the beverage is selected from the group consisting of sport beverages, meal replacement beverages, nutritional supplement beverages, fruit juices, and soda pop.
11. (Original): An additive for a beverage, comprising a normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein and trehalose; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein and trehalose form a substantially dehydrated mixture; and wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.

12. (Original): An additive for a beverage, comprising whey protein and trehalose; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the whey protein; wherein the whey protein and trehalose form a substantially dehydrated mixture; and wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
13. (Original): The additive described in claim 11, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is selected from the group consisting of soy protein and casein protein.
14. (Original): The additive described in claim 11, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is in a form selected from the group consisting of isolate, condensate, and hydrolyzate.
15. (Currently Amended): The additive described in claim 11, ~~claim 12, or claim 13,~~ wherein the beverage is selected from the group consisting of sport beverages, meal replacement beverages, nutritional supplement beverages, fruit juices, and soda pop.
16. (Original): A beverage comprising an additive; wherein the additive comprises a normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein and trehalose; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein; wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein and trehalose form a substantially dehydrated mixture; and wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
17. (Original): A beverage comprising an additive; wherein the additive comprises whey protein and trehalose; wherein the trehalose is substantially distributed throughout the whey protein; wherein the whey protein and trehalose form a substantially dehydrated mixture; and wherein the additive has a substantially neutral effect on the flavor of the beverage.
18. (Original): The additive described in claim 16, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is selected from the group consisting of soy protein and casein protein.
19. (Original): The additive described in claim 16, wherein the normally bitter/cardboard-tasting protein is in a form selected from the group consisting of isolate, condensate, and hydrolyzate.
20. (Currently Amended): The additive described in claim 16, ~~claim 17, or claim 18,~~ wherein the beverage is selected from the group consisting of sport beverages,

meal replacement beverages, nutritional supplement beverages, fruit juices, and soda pop.

21. (Currently Amended): The flavored beverage prepared by the method described in claim 1, ~~claim 2, or claim 3.~~

22. (Currently Amended): The additive prepared by the method described in claim 6, ~~claim 7, or claim 8.~~